Refugee Week

20-26 June 2022: Healing Event Organiser Pack
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What is Refugee Week?

Refugee Week is an annual festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees

Through arts, culture and community events, Refugee Week aims to:

- Bring people together
- Provide a platform for the voices, perspectives and creative work of refugees
- Bring about deeper understanding of refugee experiences

Refugee Week 2022 is 20-26 June, and the theme is Healing.

Everyone is welcome to take part in Refugee Week by holding their own event or activity, big or small, anywhere in the UK or the world.

Recent programmes have included performances, artistic commissions, creative workshops, schools’ activities, community get togethers, football tournaments, faith events, cooking classes, meals, walks, talks and podcasts – to name a few!

Refugee Week is a partnership project coordinated by Counterpoints Arts.

Refugee Week 2022: Healing

Whether it’s about looking after ourselves and each other at difficult times, overcoming divisions or coming together for the survival of our shared planet, healing matters to us all. We invite you to respond to the theme of ‘Healing’ in your Refugee Week event or activity, and join us in celebrating community, mutual care, and the human ability to start again.
Refugee Week Shared Values

Refugee Week events respect these common principles

We All have the Right to be Safe: Everyone deserves a home

There is a Bigger Us: The safety of each of us matters to all of us

Open to All: Our events are welcoming and inclusive

Celebrating Contributions: Everyone has something to give, no-one has anything to prove

Arts and Culture Make Change: Creativity helps us see things differently

A Space for Many Stories: No single narrative represents ‘the refugee experience’

Leadership Matters: Wherever possible, refugees should lead

Refugees are not a Single Group: Refugees face different barriers

Reclaiming ‘Refugee’: We use the term positively, and respect people’s right to self-define
Getting Started

Refugee Week events come in all shapes and sizes. Here are some suggested first steps:

- Find others in your local area who are already involved in Refugee Week, by searching online, through Refugee Week Key Contacts or the Refugee Week and Platforma Google Group.
- Can you co-organise with someone from a different background, or partner with a group that can reach a new audience?
- Can someone with refugee experience help lead your event? Resource: Who Decides?
- Hold a local planning meeting to build networks and share ideas and resources. Resource: Template agenda
- Explore the Refugee Week 2022 Simple Acts (see p6)
- Sign up to the Refugee Week newsletter for updates and resources
Things to Consider

Food for thought as you start to plan

**Audience:** Does your event aim to reach a particular group, or bring together different communities? Think about which platform or location you will choose and how you will publicise your event in order to reach your target audience. Resource: [Reaching New Audiences | Britain Talks: Healing Divisions](#)

**Partners:** Who can you partner with that might bring new experiences, expertise or audiences?

**Storytelling:** If personal stories are being shared, how can this be done in a safe and empowering way? Resource: [(Beyond) Storytelling](#)

**Fundraising:** How will you fund your event? You might apply for a grant, or offer ‘pay as you feel’ tickets. Resource: [Fundraising Tools + Tips](#)

**Access:** Think about how you can remove barriers to participation, including relating to disability, neurodiversity, language, income and internet access. Resources: Access checklist | Creating Participatory Spaces

**Safety + Wellbeing:** How can you help protect people in vulnerable situations and ensure wellbeing? You might start by preparing a friendly code of conduct for your event, or do a simple ‘safeguarding risk assessment’. For online events, it’s safest not to share Zoom publicly, and to disable share screen. Resource: [NHS safeguarding pocket guide](#)

**Evaluation:** How will you gather feedback and record learning?
Simple Acts

Use these Simple Acts as inspiration or building blocks for your event

1. **Send a Message**
   - Share a message of kindness and hope

2. **Share a Dish**
   - Make new connections through food

3. **Have a Chat**
   - Reach out through a simple conversation

4. **Watch a Film**
   - Watch or screen a film from Moving Worlds
### Simple Acts

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<td>Turn the pages and travel new worlds</td>
<td>Join the ‘Great Walk Together’ as part of Refugee Week + The Great Get Together</td>
<td>Come together to reconnect with nature</td>
<td>Invite your networks to stay involved all year round</td>
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For more details and resources for each Simple Act, visit the [Refugee Week website](https://www.refugeeweek.org.uk).
Promoting Your Event

Help your event get the attention it deserves

- There are many different ways to spread the word, including printed flyers, word of mouth, social media, local media and listings websites. Think about your target audience and which approaches are most likely to reach them - and which networks, partners or individuals can help you.
- Add your event to the Events Calendar on the Refugee Week website
- Use the hashtags #RefugeeWeek2022 and #HealingTogether on social media (and #SimpleActs where relevant). Check out IMIX’s timeless top tips for getting your event seen online and list of useful social media resources
- Look out for the Refugee Week social media pack, with ready made posts you can share
- See IMIX’s tips on engaging local and regional media, and use this template press release when contacting journalists

Download the Refugee Week logo to use in your publicity here
Checklist

- GETTING STARTED
  - Find others involved locally
  - Reach out to new partners
  - Hold a planning meeting
  - Explore Simple Acts

- THINK ABOUT
  - Target audience
  - Leadership
  - Access
  - Safeguarding

- PRACTICAL STEPS
  - Decide date and time
  - Book performers etc
  - Choose venue/platform
  - Add to RW website + promote

- DURING + AFTER
  - Capture the event
  - Share on social media
  - Evaluate
  - Celebrate!

Inspiration

Events from Refugee Week 2021

- In person events
- Creative workshops
- Performance
- Children + Young People
- Talks
- Refugee Week 2021 round-up blog post
- Refugee Week 2021 report
Resources Index

About Refugee Week
How to Get Involved in Refugee Week 2022
About Refugee Week + Shared Values
Refugee Week Theory of Change
Refugee Week 2021 Report
Timeline to Refugee Week 2022

The Issues
Facts About Refugees, Refugee Action
Global Displacement Figures, UNHCR
Traces timeline of refugee contributions to UK arts and culture. Counterpoints Arts
Timeline: 400 Years of Refugee Movement to the UK, Refugee History
Timeline: The History of British Immigration Policy (1905-2016). Refugee History

Event Planning
Template Agenda for Planning Meeting
Running Effective Online and 'Hybrid' Events

Reaching New Audiences
Creating Participatory Spaces
Fundraising tools and tips
Access checklist
Refugee Week and Platforma Google Group

Promotion
Social media tips and resources, IMIX
Tips on engaging media, IMIX
Template press release

Programming
Simple Acts
Moving Worlds

Representation and Power
Supporting Lived Experience Leadership (Beyond) Storytelling

Racial Justice and Refugee Solidarity
Communities
Refugee Week in your Faith Community
Football and Refugees

Schools Resources
Transformative Conversations
Britain Talks: Healing Divisions
Changing the Conversation on Asylum: A Messaging Guide, Freedom From Torture

Further Resources
Platforma Manifesto: A guide to good practice for the arts, refugees & migration, Counterpoints Arts
Sanctuary in the Arts Resource Pack, City of Sanctuary
Refugee Action Good Practice website
Refugee Week is a partnership project coordinated by Counterpoints Arts. Refugee Festival Scotland is coordinated by Scottish Refugee Council and Refugee Week Wales by Welsh Refugee Council.

Refugee Week was founded in Australia, and the longstanding programme there is run by Australian Refugee Council.

Refugee Week is growing internationally and will this year take place in Greece, Germany, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Malta, coordinated independently, with support from Counterpoints Arts.

What did you think of this pack? Send your questions and feedback to emily@counterpointsarts.org.uk